

History of the Central

DRAWER 5 DEBATES

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The Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1858

Ottawa Debate Centennial

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Parade Held In Ottawa to Mark Debate

OTTAWA, Ill.—(P)—Ottawa marked the centennial Sunday of the famed Lincoln-Douglas debates with a parade featuring floats, bands, marching units, antique autos and farm implements of a century ago.

State police estimated there were 50,000 spectators.

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MANY OF THOSE taking part in the parade wore costumes of a century ago. Some of the floats depicted scenes from the debates.

The parade wound up a week-long celebration commemorating the centennial of the debate in Ottawa.

Abe debates Steve

● In case you missed the real thing in 1858, the Ottawa Bicentennial Commission is reenacting a Lincoln-Douglas debate. The debate will be in the town's Washington Square at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Tho the original date was Aug. 21, the Ottawa historians have altered little else. Lincoln will ride in a carriage to the site with Mary Todd Lincoln. Prior to the Lincoln-Douglas confrontation there will be an ice cream social at noon. Other activities will include square dancing, a walking tour of Washington Square, a crafts-of-the-prairies display, and a tug of war. Admission is free. For more information you can phone the Ottawa commission at 815-438-0161.





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